

City Club of Chicago  
(now John Marshall Law School)  
315 South Plymouth Place  
Chicago  
Cook County  
Illinois

HABS NO. ILL-1080

HABS  
ILL,  
16-CHIG,  
78-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
801 19th Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

CITY CLUB OF CHICAGO  
(now John Marshall Law School)HABS  
ILL,  
16-CHIG,  
78-

Location: 315 South Plymouth Place, Chicago, Cook County,  
Illinois.

Present Owner  
and Use: The John Marshall Law School.

Statement of  
Significance: The City Club, built in 1911, is representative of  
the work of Pond and Pond. Being a Chicago firm,  
many of its designs were carried out in this city  
in the early decades of the 20th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the property: Lot 3 in Assessor's Subdivision of lots 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, and 23 in Block 139, School Section Addition to Chicago of Section 16-39-14.

The following is an abstract of the complete chain of title contained in Book 468A, pp. 245-46, in the Cook County Recorder's Office:

The City Club of Chicago is recorded as receiving an option to lease lot 3 from its owner Robert J. Gunning on June 3, 1909 (Document 4385984). On May 15, 1916 Gunning entered into a lease agreement with Francis P. Hardy (Document 5868660). Edward K. Hardy turned the deed over to the present owner and occupant, the John Marshall Law School, on March 31, 1934 (Document 11380294); they are the present owners as of the last entry, dated April 15, 1955 (Document 16205339).

2. Date of erection: 1911.
3. Architects: Pond and Pond; Irving K. Pond (1857-1939) and Allen Pond (1858-1929).
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The files of the Chicago Department of Buildings indicate that the original building permit was issued on December 8, 1910. The completed building was published in "City Club, Chicago, Illinois, Pond and Pond, Architects," The Brickbuilder, Vol. 21 (May 1912), pl. 57-59. The following is the description of the building from this article.

The chief motive in the general design of this building was to give expression to the relationship existing between the City Club and the modern social and civic aims. The building, 50' x 95' has a height of 93 feet above the sidewalk and 12 feet below reaching to the basement floor.

The construction is fireproof throughout, the outer walls being of solid masonry on pile foundation, and the floor arches of hollow tile. The floor of the lobby is of quarry tile, in all halls and corridors of composition, in the toilet rooms of marble and ceramic tile, and in the principal rooms of cork or maple. The trim and finish is quarter sawed oak up to and including the main dining room, while all above is of select birch. The cost of the building, ready for decoration, was approximately \$145,000.

B. Bibliography:

Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School, The American Spirit in Midwest Residential Architecture 1893-1916. Evanston, Illinois: Unpublished doctoral thesis for the Department of Art, Northwestern University, 1957. pp. 203-206.

"City Club, Chicago, Illinois, Pond and Pond, Architects," The Brickbuilder, Vol. 21 (May 1912). pl. 57-59, description p. 139.  
Elevation, interiors and plans.

Condit, Carl W. The Chicago School of Architecture. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964. pp. 157, 161, 205-207.  
Biography and general description of the work of Pond and Pond.

Photographs of the work of Pond and Pond (1900?-192?), mounted in four volumes. Burnham Library in the Art Institute of Chicago. Volume 2 contains a photograph of a perspective rendering in pen and ink of the City Club, dated April, 1911, as well as five early views of the completed interiors.

Pond, Irving K. Big Top Rhythms, A Study in Life and Art. Chicago: Willett Clark and Company, 1937.  
Illustrated by the author. A humorously written and curious study by the architect of the rhythmic patterns created in acrobatic exercises.

Pond, Irving K. The Meaning of Architecture, An Essay in Constructive Criticism. Boston: Marshall Jones Company, 1918. p. 222, fig. 23 "Entrance to a City Club."  
This illustration is a rendering for the doorway of the City Club of Chicago. Two male sculptural figures flank

the doorway and are included slightly altered, in the photograph, published in The Brickbuilder (1912). The latter photograph may well have been retouched, since the statues do not appear to have been installed in the niches; in their places are large blocks of limestone.

For an evaluation of Pond's theoretical views as presented in his book, see Bruno Zevi, Architecture as Space (1957), especially pp. 263-64.

Portfolio of Miscellaneous Sketches by Irving Kane Pond and Work of Pond and Pond, Martin and Lloyd, Chicago, 1885-1935, in the Burnham Library of the Art Institute of Chicago. The City Club is not included among these; the sketches and color renderings provide an insight into the approach to design taken by the firm, especially in their later work.

Randall, Frank A. History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago. Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1949. p. 240.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The City Club, built in 1911, is representative of the work of Pond and Pond. Being a Chicago firm, many of its designs were carried out in this city in the early decades of the 20th century.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular, 50' (three-bay west front) x 95' (eight bays); 93' high.
2. Number of stories: Six. (Second and third floors are higher, due to the inclusion of a mezzanine in each.)
3. Foundations: Pile foundations.
4. Wall construction: The first floor is faced in random ashlar; the remainder of the facade is dark red-brown brick with ashlar trim.
5. Structural system: Mill construction.
6. Chimneys: One in the northeast corner.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Front on axis; rear door slightly to south. A small ornamental light fixture is on either side of the main entrance.
- b. Windows: Double-hung windows with a variety of patterning of panes, sills, moldings, and trim. Originally two wide segmental-arched windows flanked the entrance; these have been replaced by larger rectangular openings with grid panes.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Flat, built-up roofing.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Low, triangular parapet with small ornamental details placed across the surface. It would appear that the original horizontal parapet has been replaced by the present one.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: Coat room, billiard room, boiler room, stairs.
- b. First floor: Central entry hall and lobby, flanked by coat rooms, reception rooms, stairs and elevators, toilets.
- c. Second floor: Lounge and reading room.
- d. Mezzanine: Writing room, storage, toilets. Third floor: Main dining room and kitchen.
- e. Mezzanine: Gallery, storage, preparation, etc.
- f. Fourth floor: General office, stores and files, working library, private dining rooms, rest room.
- g. Fifth floor: Private dining rooms, storage, grill, sewing room, toilet.

The interior has undergone some remodeling to accommodate the functions of the law school. There are offices on the first floor; the second floor lounge and third floor dining room are now large lecture rooms; the mezzanines and upper stories have been taken over for smaller classrooms and offices.

2. Stairways: Main stair on south wall, service stair in south-east corner, elevators between them on the south wall.
3. Flooring: Entrance hall: Red ceramic tile with occasional black veined marble squares. Most of the flooring has been re-covered with carpeting or vinyl tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster above painted a light color, with wood paneling below. Originally, as noted from old views, the plaster walls were decorated with a band of repeated stencil designs 2' below the ceiling moldings. The design repeats the ornamental motif which is carried throughout the decorative features, trim and fixtures of the interior.
5. Decorative features and trim: There are large fireplaces in the dining room and lounge; these are ornamented with I. K. Pond's original ornamental relief designs -- a combination of five cubes and an organic, feather or leaf-like sculptural design that recalls the ornamental style of the Art Nouveau. Similar ornamental plaques and moldings are found in strategic locations on the walls and ceilings throughout the building. Many of these have been repainted, the cubes in bright primary hues and pastels, the organic forms gilded.
6. Notable hardware: Pond's decorative designs are also found in the light fixtures and iron newell posts of the building.
7. Heating: Central heating, boiler room in basement.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: The building faces west on Plymouth Place and fronts on the sidewalk line. Located on a short street at the south end of the Loop, the building is in close proximity to several distinguished Chicago buildings, such as the Fisher, Old Colony, and Monadnock to the southwest, and Mies van der Rohe's recent Federal Building to the north. Across the street is the Standard Club of Chicago.

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